

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02946 091505Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 ACDA-07 AF-10 SSM-03 /095 W
-----092216Z 096313 /61

R 091357Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3015
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BERN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR SY US
SUBJ: MEDIA COVERAGE CARTER-ASSAD MEETING

1. MAY 9 MEDIA REACHED CRESCENDO IN ITS PREMEETING COVERAGE,
REPORTING FULLY AL-ASSAD'S ARRIVAL IN GENEVA AND BRIEF
PRESS CONFERENCE. VIRTUALLY ALL EDITORIAL COMMENT DEVOTED
TO MEETING. MEDIA STRESSED AL-ASSAD'S MENTION OF PEACE
"TEN TIMES" DURING HIS BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH JOURNALISTS.

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2. WHILE COVERAGE PEAKED, THEMES REMAINED CONSISTENT WITH
THOSE OF PREVIOUS DAYS. THISHRIIN HEADLINED: "LEADER
AL-ASSAD IN GENEVA: 'WE WILL NOT CONCEDE ONE SINGLE INCH
OF OUR OCCUPIED LANDS. SECURE BORDERS MEAN THAT EVERYONE
SHOULD BE RETURNED HIS RIGHTS.'" ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE
REPORTED INTEREST HIS MANY REFERENCES TO PEACE AROUSED
AMONG WESTERN JOURNALISTS. ARTICLE FURTHER STATED: "THE

AMERICAN DELEGATION SHOULD BE CONVINCED THAT THERE NO LONGER
REMAINS ANY PRETEXT FOR NOT PUTTING FORWARD AMERICAN CONCEPTION
FOR PEACE IN THE AREA." AL-ASSAD'S MEETING WITH ABD AL-HAMID
SHARAF ALSO NOTED IN ARTICLE.

3. TISHRIIN EDITORIALS BROKE NO NEW GROUND. ARABS SAID
TO HAVE THUSFAR PROVIDED ALL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ESTABLISHING
PEACE. CLAIMED AGAIN U.S. HAD CAPABILITY TO PRESSURE
ISRAEL INTO SOLUTION "IT (US) AGREES TO." SENIOR TISHRIIN
COLUMNIST JIBRAN KURIYYA REMINDED READERS THAT U.S. FORCED
ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW IN 1956 FROM SINAI AFTER ISRAEL HAD
ANNOUNCED ITS FORMAL ANNEXATION OF THE TERRITORY. HE
DECLARED THAT, "EXTENT OF U.S. SINCERITY IN ITS WORK FOR
JUST PEACE WILL BE GAUGED BY DEGREE TO WHICH IT EXERTS
PRESSURE UPON ISRAEL TO COMPEL IT ABANDON ITS NEGATIVE
ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEACE EFFORTS." PRESIDENT CARTER CALLED
UPON TO OUTLINE U.S. CONCEPTION FOR SOLUTION TO CONFLICT
SINCE, "CONTACTS WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER WANTED TO MAKE WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTIES TO MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT HAVE
BEEN COMPLETED." TWO OTHER EDITORIALS IN TISHRIIN VIRTUALLY
RESTATED KURIYYA'S POSITION.
PELLETREAU

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